

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-23 and 25 were examined in the outstanding final office action mailed on 08/08/2008 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). All the claims were rejected.

By virtue of this paper, claims 2, 12 and 21 are sought to be canceled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 25 are sought to be amended. The amendments and cancellations are believed not to introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-14, 16-20, 22-23 and 25 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Outstanding Office Action, the Examiner had indicated that claims 11-14 and 16-19 constitute non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner had further asserted that machine readable medium "... only includes volatile medium" (*Emphasis Added*).

It is respectfully noted that claims 11-14 and 16-19 have been amended to recite a "machine readable non-volatile storage medium". The non-volatile storage is supported at least by paragraphs 96-98 of the application as filed.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 11-14, 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (Patent Number 6,604,170) in view of US Patent Number 6,775,745 issued to Fry *et al* ('Fry' hereinafter).

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's contentions it is respectfully submitted that the submitted claims are allowable over the art of record.

Currently amended claim 1 stores in a random access memory (RAM) those identifiers (of a file), which are determined by traversing the linked list in the FAT stored in a secondary memory.

By storing only such identifiers, the memory space in RAM may be optimally used, as is the requirement in the described embodiments of the present invention.

The Examiner concedes that the storing of identifiers in a RAM is not taught or reasonably suggested by Suzuki by relying on Fry. Fry does not cure that deficiency.

5 In Page 5 lines 12-18 of the Outstanding Office Action, the Examiner relies on the below portions of Fry in rejecting claim 1:

10 In one embodiment of the invention, the OS 128 **will read 128 Kbytes of the FAT 112 beginning with the cluster number** obtained from the subdirectory 109. The 128 Kbyte read from the FAT 112 is copied to the RAM and cached in section 124 of the cache 120. (Col. 5 lines 12-15 of Fry, **Emphasis Added**)

15 ... For example, if the OS 128 requests data from the RAM and the data is not in the RAM the data will be obtained from the disk 104 as described above. Similarly, if only a portion of the requested data is in memory, then the next 128 Kbytes of data will be read from the disk 104 through drive buffer 116 and movement of a read head attached to arm 116 and then transferred to the RAM in one embodiment of the invention. (Col. 5 lines 27-35 of Fry)

20 Thus, while Fry appears to disclose that portions of FAT 112 are read into RAM, at least the above noted portion does not teach or reasonably suggest that the stored portions of the FAT include those identifiers (at least when in non-contiguous locations, as recited in claim 1).

25 Currently amended independent claim 1 is accordingly believed to be allowable over the art of record. Claims 3-6 depend from currently amended claim 1, and are allowable at least for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Currently amended independent claim 7 is also allowable for reasons similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 8-10 depend from currently amended claim 7, and are allowable at least for the reasons noted above.

30 The remaining currently amended independent claims 11, 17 and 20 are allowable over the art of record at least for some of the reasons noted above. The dependent claims are allowable at least as depending from the corresponding allowable base claims.

Conclusion

Accordingly all the objections and rejections of record are believed to be overcome. Continuation of examination is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

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Respectfully submitted,

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